

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134127

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, XJ

SUBJECT:US/EC PRESIDENCY DIALOGUE: AFRICAN ISSUES

1. DANISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR KIMBERG CALLED ON DEPARTMENT
OFFICERS MAY 24, IN HIS EC PRESIDENCY CAPACITY, FOR REVIEW
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OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE AND THE HORN PRIOR TO MAY 26 EC-9
AFRICAN EXPERTS MEETING.

2. ZAIRE. DEPARTMENT OFFICER (DIRECTOR, AF/C) BRIEFLY
REVIEWED SHABA II EVENTS TO DATE AND, IN RESPONSE TO
KIMBERG'S QUERY, THE US ROLE IN PROVIDING REQUESTED LOGISTIC
SUPPORT FOR BELGIAN AND FRENCH EFFORTS IN KOLWEZI. LOOKING

AHEAD, IT WAS CLEAR THAT ATTACK WAS FURTHER BLOW TO ALREADY TROUBLED ZAIRE ECONOMY. INITIAL ASSESSMENTS OF TIME REQUIRED TO BRING MINES BACK INTO PRODUCTION RANGE FROM THREE TO TWELVE MONTHS. PRESENT MULTILATERAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST ZAIREAN RECOVERY AND REFORM, E.G. THE MOBUTU PLAN, WOULD HAVE TO TAKE POST-SHABA II SITUATION INTO ACCOUNT. THE US WAS BEGINNING TO LOOK AT WHAT MORE MIGHT BE DONE, IN MULTILATERAL CONTEXT, TO PRECLUDE NOW SERIOUS PROSPECT OF ECONOMIC CHAOS. ASKED ABOUT ADMINISTRATION CONCERNS OVER CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON ITS ABILITY TO REACT TO

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS, DEPARTMENT OFFICER NOTED THAT PRESENT LIMITATIONS WERE UNDER REVIEW, AFTER WHICH CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO SEEKING CHANGES THAT WOULD ENHANCE USG FLEXIBILITY.

3. THE HORN. ON THE SITUATION IN ERITREA, DEPARTMENT OFFICER (DIRECTOR, AF/E) INDICATED THAT ETHIOPIANS HAVE TOLD US THEY REGARD MATTER AS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR AND WOULD NOT CALL ON OUTSIDERS FOR ASSISTANCE. THEY HAVE ALSO SAID THAT ADDIS WANTS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, BUT THAT ERITREANS HAVE TURNED DOWN THEIR NINE POINT PROGRAM DUE TO ARAB (E.G. SAUDI) ENCOURAGEMENT. WITH REGARD TO MILITARY SITUATION, IT APPEARS ANTICIPATED MAJOR ETHIOPIAN OFFENSIVE IS NOT YET UNDERWAY. HOWEVER, WITH RAINY SEASON DUE SOON, IT COULD COME AT ANY TIME. CUBAN ROLE IN ERITREA IS UNCONFIDENTIAL

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TAIN; THERE IS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT AT PRESENT. HAVANA IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM SOME NON-ALIGNED GROUP COUNTRIES TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT, ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS A DIFFERENT SITUATION FROM THE OGADEN. SHOULD ETHIOPIAN OFFENSIVE SERIOUSLY FALTER, HOWEVER, ADDIS WOULD PROBABLY PRESS CUBANS, MOST LIKELY THROUGH SOVIETS, FOR MILITARY HELP. AS FOR ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA RELATIONS, THE ETHIOPIANS MAINTAIN THAT SITUATION WILL NOT IMPROVE (AND, BY IMPLICATION, CUBAN/SOVIET PRESENCE WILL CONTINUE) UNTIL SOMALIS RENOUNCE ALL CLAIMS TO THE OGADEN. FOR THEIR PART, THE SOMALIS REMAIN CONCERNED OVER WHAT THEY SEE AS SOVIET-INSPIRED EFFORT TO "RING" SOMALIA WITH HOSTILE REGIMES AND STRESS NEED FOR ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY MILITARY, FROM THE WEST. WHILE WE HAVE MADE NO COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE SECURITY ASSISTANCE, WE WILL PROBABLY SEND MILITARY SURVEY TEAM IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF IMPROVED US/SOMALI RELATIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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